

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 712
By Clabough

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Avie Lee Caroline
Owens Parton of Sevierville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Avie Lee Caroline Owens Parton; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Parton was an exemplary Tennessean who worked assiduously in numerous capacities to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, nicknamed "Smoky Mountain Mama", she was well known and loved throughout her community and our state; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Parton was the loving and devoted mother of twelve children, many of whom went on to careers in music; and

WHEREAS, a devout Christian and inspiration to many, she recorded several albums of hymns and mountain music, and her children recorded her arrangements of traditional songs as well; and

WHEREAS, this immensely kind and warm woman married Robert Lee Parton in 1939; they shared sixty-one wonderful years together before he preceded his cherished wife in death in 2000; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Parton was also preceded in death by a son, Larry G. Parton, her parents, the Reverend Jake and Rena Valentine Owens, a sister and brother-in-law, Estelle and Dot Watson, and two brothers, Lester Owens and Robert "John Henry" Owens; and

WHEREAS, she will be dearly missed by her eleven surviving children and their spouses, Willadeene Parton, David and Kay Parton, Denver and Carolyn Parton, Dolly and Carl Dean, Bobby and Angie Parton, Stella Parton, Cassie and Scott King, Randy and Deb Parton, Freida Parton, Floyd Parton, and Rachel and Eric George; her 14 grandchildren, Mitchell Blalock, Donna Lashlee, Dena Bell, Chris Parton, Jennifer Linkous, Clint Parton, Danielle Prince, Bryan and Rebecca Seaver, Tim Rauhoff, Tever and Heidi Lou Parton, Jada Andersen,

and Hannah Dennison; her four great-grandchildren, Jordan Bell, Jared Bell, Ian Parton, and Lucas Townsend; a sister, Dorothy Jo Owens; and three brothers and their spouses, Lewis and Colleen Owens, Bill and Sandy Owens, and Alden and Barbara Owens; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Parton leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Avie Lee Caroline Owens Parton, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character, her musical legacy, and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mrs. Parton.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.